

- (ix) Air Freight, Subsidy for export of fresh floriculture products for the period 1.9.1995 to 31.3.1996.

#### German Aid

4147. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Germany have signed any accord for extending most favoured Nation status to each other;

(b) whether Germany has agreed to extend aid amounting to \$ 450 million for the core sector like rural development, small scale industries and infrastructure development in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Bilateral Investment Protection Agreement signed between Govt. of India and Govt. of Germany in July, 1995, both countries have agreed to accord most favoured Nation status to each other for investment. Further, both India and Germany are signatories to General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) which prescribes for providing most favoured Nation status to other members of the agreement.

(b) and (c) Under an agreement signed in June, 1995 between Govt. of Germany and Govt. of India, Germany has committed to provide financial aid to the tune of DM 366.6 million (about US \$ 258.3 M) to India. Out of this amount, DM 241.6 million is in the form of soft loan and the balance DM 125 million is in the form of grants. The aid will be utilised for projects mutually agreed between the two sides mostly in the areas of rural development, health, environment protection, welfare, irrigation, small scale industries, housing for weaker section, drinking water and import of fertiliser.

#### Foreign Airlines approaching for their Flights

4148. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign airlines have asked for the permission of Government for operating flight from various foreign countries to Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the decision taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Requests have been received from Singapore Airlines, Qatar Airways and Uzbekistan Airlines for operating services to Trivandrum. Due to limited infrastructural facilities at Trivandrum Airport and lack of adequate quid-pro-quo to our national carriers, the requests have not been agreed to so far.

#### Trade Between India and South Africa

4149. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the volume and value of trade between India and South Africa has considerable increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise, till-date;

(c) whether a 50 member delegation consisting of prominent South African industrialists led by the Director General of Trade and Industry of South Africa visited India during November, 1995;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating inter-alia particulars of the memoranda of understandings/ agreement signed during the visit of delegation;

(e) the measures taken recently or proposed to be taken in coming years to enlarge the trade relations between India and South Africa;

(f) whether any targets have been fixed in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI R. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Year-wise details of trade turnover between India and South Africa for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (till Sept., 1995) are given below :-

	(Rs./Crores)		
	<u>1993-94</u>	<u>1994-95</u>	<u>1995-96</u>
	(till Sept., 1995)		
Exports	85.96	500.08	412.38
Imports	95.20	494.81	262.78

It would be seen from the above table that against the trade turnover between India and South Africa for the year 1994-95 at the level of Rs.995 crores, the trade turnover between the two countries for the half year of the current financial year has already touched the level of Rs.675.16 thus showing a rising trend.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A high level delegation from South Africa led by the South African Minister for Trade and Industry visited India last month. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), which organised a business meeting with the business delegation from South Africa on 20th Nov., 1995 has intimated that detailed discussions on promotion of Indo-South African Economic Cooperation were held and some of the Indian firms are reported to have entered into collaborations with South African firms for establishing Joint Venture Projects in South Africa in areas such as computer software, cement clinkers, trading and ceramic glassware etc.